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What happens to your Household Hazardous Waste?

The wastes accepted at an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Household Hazardous Waste collection are recycled or disposed in a number of environmentally safe ways, including:

Recycling: Steel paint cans, fluorescent bulbs, many household batteries, mercury and some solvents are recycled into other useful products.

Fuel Blending: Paints, motor oils, gasoline, kerosene, paint removers, thinners and other flammable or combustible liquids are blended with virgin fuels and used as an alternative fuel source for industrial boilers and cement kilns. Over seventy-five percent of the wastes accepted at HHW collections are fuel blended.

Chemical Treatment: Many household cleaners, swimming pool chemicals, cyanides and acids have their toxins neutralized or removed by various chemical processes, and are rendered harmless.

Incineration: Insecticides, herbicides, some cleaners, and flammable materials not suited for fuel blending or recycling are destroyed by incineration at high temperatures.

Hazardous Waste Landfill: Asbestos and less than one percent of the wastes collected will be placed in a landfill. Landfills are highly regulated, have polyliners, and are continuously monitored for leakage.

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Welcome to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Household Hazardous Waste Collection

PLEASE STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE

Please Extinguish All Cigarettes, Cigars and Pipes.

If Your Waste is in the Trunk, Please Allow an Illinois EPA Volunteer to Open it For You.

Once Your Waste is Removed, Exit the Collection Area Safely.

The Illinois EPA is proud to sponsor these worthwhile programs around the State to help citizens safely rid their homes of unwanted pesticides, paints, automotive fluids and other household items that could pose a threat to our landfills, home OR environment if disposed in an unsafe manner.

The program is paid for in part by the Solid Waste Management Fund which receives its funding from tipping fees collected at municipal waste landfills throughout the State. These collections range in cost from $40,000 to $200,000, depending on participation and the amount of waste collected.

Your patience and cooperation today will ensure a safe and successful collection. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency appreciates your concern for a safe environment and hopes you will continue to safely dispose of your household hazardous waste.

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